Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a uniform resource locator (URL), the method comprising:

receiving an electronic document containing at least one predefined link selectable by a user;

accessing a URL corresponding to [[a link]] at least one of the links presented for selection to a user;

identifying a portion of the URL that corresponds to a hostname component of the URL;

displaying the URL; and

visually distinguishing the hostname component of the URL from other components of the URL.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying an electronic document, wherein the link is presented contemporaneously with the electronic document.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a software application used to display the electronic document automatically identifies the portion of the URL that corresponds to the hostname component of the URL.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished from other components of the URL when a pointer is positioned over the link in the electronic document.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished from other components of the URL when the link is selected.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the link is selected through manipulation of a pointing device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising displaying a warning message in response to the selection of the link.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the warning message requires a response before performing a redirection to the URL.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein a software application automatically determines whether the URL is suspicious and displays the warning message, only if the URL is determined to be suspicious.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the link corresponds to a selectable button in the electronic document.

11. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a software application automatically determines whether the URL is suspicious and visually distinguishes the hostname component of the URL from other components of the URL only if the URL is determined to be suspicious.

12. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the software application is selected from the group consisting of a word processing application, an electronic mail application, an instant messaging application, and a browser.

13. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic document is selected from the group consisting of a word processor file, an electronic mail message, an instant message, and a web page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished by using display characteristics for the hostname component that differ from display characteristics of other components of the URL.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the display characteristics for the hostname component comprise at least one of:

a color for the hostname component that differs from a color of other components of the URL; or

a font style for the hostname component that differs from a font style of other components of the URL; or

a font size for the hostname component that differs from a font size of other components of the URL; or

a font type for the hostname component that differs from a font type of other components of the URL; or

a display effect for the hostname component.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished by repositioning the hostname component within the displayed URL.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein repositioning the hostname component comprises displaying the hostname component at the beginning of the displayed URL.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the URL, with the hostname component of the URL visually distinguished from other portions of the URL, is displayed in a user interface of a browser application.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the URL, with the hostname component of the URL visually distinguished from other portions of the URL, is displayed in an address field of the browser application user interface.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the URL, with the hostname component of the URL visually distinguished from other portions of the URL, is displayed in a status bar of the browser application user interface.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the URL, with the hostname component of the URL visually distinguished from other portions of the URL, is displayed in the status bar of the browser application user interface when a pointer is positioned over a hyperlink displayed by the browser application.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hostname component of the URL comprises at least a second level domain name.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hostname component of the URL comprises at least a portion of the URL that follows an "@" symbol in the URL.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hostname component of the URL comprises the first and second level domain names.

25. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions, the instructions operable to cause one or more processors to perform operations comprising:

presenting at least one predefined link in an electronic document for selection [[to]] by a user, wherein the link corresponds to a URL;

processing the electronic document to identify the URL and to identify a portion of the URL that corresponds to a hostname component of the URL;

displaying the URL on a user interface; and

visually distinguishing the hostname component of the URL from other components of the URL.

26. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:

receiving a user selection of the link; and

displaying the URL on the user interface, with the hostname component of the URL visually distinguished from other components of the URL, in response to the user selection of the hyperlink.

27. (Original) The article of claim 26 wherein the link is displayed on the user interface and the user selection of the link comprises one of receiving an indication that a pointer is positioned over the link or receiving an indication that the link is selected through manipulation of a pointing device.

28. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished from other components of the URL by using display characteristics for the hostname component that differ from display characteristics of other components of the URL.

29. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished from other components of the URL by repositioning the hostname component within the displayed URL.

30. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished from other components of the URL by displaying the hostname component of the URL in isolation from the other components of the URL.

31. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:

determining that the URL is suspicious; and

displaying a warning message in response to the determination.

32. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the hostname component of the URL comprises at least a second level domain name.

33. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the hostname component of the URL comprises at least a portion of the URL that follows an "@" symbol in the URL.

34. (Original) The article of claim 25 wherein the hostname component of the URL comprises the first and second level domain names.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying a uniform resource locator (URL), the system comprising:

means for presenting at least one predefined link in an electronic document for selection [[to]] by a user, wherein the link corresponds to a URL;

means for processing the electronic document to identify the URL and to identify a portion of the URL that corresponds to a hostname component of the URL;

means for displaying the URL on a user interface; and

means for visually distinguishing the hostname component of the URL from other components of the URL.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a uniform resource locator (URL), the method comprising:

accessing a URL corresponding to a link presented for selection to a user, the URL including a hostname component and other components;

identifying a portion of the URL that corresponds to [[a]] the hostname component of the URL;

identifying at least one other portion of the URL that corresponds to the other components of the URL;

determining whether the URL is suspicious based on an analysis of the hostname component and the other components; and

displaying a warning message relating to the hostname component of the URL if the URL is determined to be suspicious.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) The method of claim 36 further comprising requiring a user to acknowledge the hostname component of the URL before providing access to an electronic file identified by the URL.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein the warning message identifies the hostname component of the URL.

40. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein a software application automatically identifies the portion of the URL that corresponds to the hostname component of the URL.

41. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein the warning message displays the entire URL.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the hostname component of the URL is visually distinguished from other components of the URL.

43. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein the warning message is displayed in response to a selection of the link.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein determining whether the URL is suspicious based on an analysis of the other components includes determining a position of the hostname component relative to the other components.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein determining whether the URL is suspicious based on an analysis of the other components includes identifying at least one of the other components that resembles a hostname component.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising determining whether the URL is suspicious by determining whether the hostname component of the URL corresponds to the information in the link.